drugs, ivory, coral, rhinoceros horns, amber, ebony, pearls, tortoise-shell, rare woods, and rock crystal.

The Sung faced an adverse balance of trade. Gold, silver, and especially Chinese copper coin were exported in such quantities that the government, although without success, tried to stop the precious metals from disappearing by forbidding the use of the luxuries to which the drainage was attributed. The extent of this outward flow of specie is shown by the fact that Sung coins have been unearthed in Java, Singapore, and even in Zanzibar and on the Somali coast in Africa, and that their circulation in Japan proved an embarrassment to the government of that country. To the resulting dearth of coin in China is ascribed, possibly in part correctly, the resort to paper money which was one of the outstanding features of the fiscal policy of the Sung. The evils attendant upon inflation were felt to the full, but the temptation to use the device proved too strong to be resisted.

Whether because of this contact with aliens or for other reasons, innovations were seen. The use of chairs became general. Tea was a common drink in both South and North. Sedan chairs were widely employed.

CULTURE UNDER THE SUNG! THE REFORMS OF WANG AN-SHIH

Marked though foreign commerce was, we have no indication that ideas corning from abroad through it profoundly influenced either Chinese thought or life. Nor did the occupation of so much of the North by non-Chinese peoples seem to work any great transformation in Chinese culture. Chinese Buddhist pilgrims still went to India by the overland routes and continued to do so until, about the middle of the eleventh century,

the spread of Islam closed the roads to them. They seem, however, to have had no such effect on Chinese life as did their predecessors of pre-T'ang and T'ang times. Moreover, while the Mongol conquests were in progress, and before they finally overwhelmed the Sung, Chinese and more or less sinicized non-Chinese of North China travelled westward, sometimes as officials or envoys for the Mongols. They reached the valley of the Oxus and saw such cities as Samarkand and Balkh. At least one of them brought back reports of Bagdad and Egypt. It seems improbable, however, that the new ideas with which they came into contact made any very pro-